Choosing a *Trichoderma:*

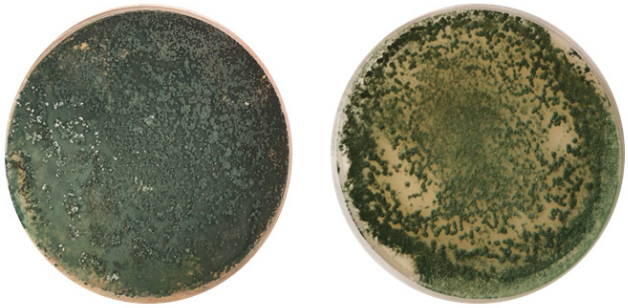
What's in the Name?

Trichoderma is a type of beneficial fungus found in soil that forms partnerships with plant roots. Known for its long-standing role in biological crop protection, *Trichoderma* helps control plant diseases, improves root and shoot growth, boosts crop yields, enhances nutrient absorption, and increases resistance to climate stress.

The name "*Trichoderma*" refers to a genus, or group, of fungi. Within this group, there are hundreds of species. Some are used in agriculture for disease control and plant growth, while other are not.

The most common species in agriculture include:

- *T. harzianum*
- *T. atroviride*
- *T. afroharzianum*
- *T. asperellum*
- *T. viride*
- *T. gamsii*



Agar petri plates with growth of two different *Trichoderma* species.

Left: *Trichoderma asperellum* Right: *Trichoderma atroviride*

Why so many names?

The names of *Trichoderma* species come from the science of taxonomy, which classifies organisms. As technology advances, scientists can study fungi in more detail, uncovering new species and refining how they are grouped.

Originally described by Persoon in 1794, it was assumed that all *Trichoderma* fungi belonged to a single species, *T. viride.* Over time, research led to the discovery of more species. For example, in 2000, within the group that was once *T. harzianum* scientists identified four separate species: *T. harzianum, T. atroviride, T. longibrachiatum, and T. asperellum.*

These changes in naming mean that the same fungus might have been called different names in the past. For example, research from before 2000 may refer to *T. harzianum* as a biocontrol agent, but that same fungus might now be classified as *T. atroviride* or another species.

Andermatt

Does the species name matter?

The species name alone doesn't indicate how effective a *Trichoderma* strain is at controlling plant diseases. Fungi are classified based on their physical traits (like size and shape) and genetics, not on how well they work in the field.

Research shows that there's no direct link between a species name and its ability to control specific plant diseases. Even within the same species, individual strains can vary in their effectiveness.

What should you look for?

When choosing a *Trichoderma*-based product, don't rely on the species name alone. Instead, focus on products backed by reliable testing and proven results. Look for brands that provide data showing their product's effectiveness against specific diseases.

At Andermatt-PHP, we test all our products on various crops and diseases to ensure they deliver reliable results. Our labels are supported by solid scientific evidence and field trials, so you can trust the efficacy of our products.

Initial registration date and active ingredient name		Name change registration approval date and active ingredient name	
Eco-T® T-Protec® T-Gro®	**Eco-77® T-77® Atroverde®**	**Eco-T® T-Protec® T-Gro®**	**Eco-77® T-77® Atroverde®**
Trichoderma ***harzianum strain kd***	*Trichoderma* ***harzianum strain 77B***	*Trichoderma* ***asperellum strain kd***	*Trichoderma* ***atroviride strain 77B***
			
2002	2004	2018	

Articles by: Chantal Janks (Head of R&D) and Dr Heather Tredgold (Global Product Manager)

Healthy Food and Healthy Environment, for all

Andermatt Group AG, Stahlermatten 6, 6146 Grossdietwil, Switzerland
+41 62 552 40 00, contact@andermatt.com, www.andermatt.com